

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A material handling apparatus includes a robotic arm having a clamshell gripping mechanism depending therefrom adapted to selectively engage opposite sides of a packaging container. A fork-type loader also depends from the robotic arm. The fork-type loader is adapted to selectively support a bottom portion of the packaging container. The clamshell gripping mechanism and the fork-type loader can be used independently or in a cooperating manner to support and move the packaging container from a container to a pallet.

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